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HOUSE BILL 858

**47TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2005**

INTRODUCED BY  
Mimi Stewart

AN ACT

RELATING TO UNEMPLOYMENT; CREATING AN UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE  
TASK FORCE; DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO:

Section 1. TEMPORARY PROVISION--UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE  
TASK FORCE--CREATION--STAFF.--

A. The "unemployment insurance task force" is  
created. The task force consists of fifteen members as  
follows:

(1) the secretary of labor or the secretary's  
designee;

(2) a staff member of the labor department,  
appointed by the secretary of labor, who is familiar with the  
existing structure for calculating contribution rates and  
alternatives used in other states;

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1 (3) a staff member of the legislative finance  
2 committee, appointed by the legislative finance committee, who  
3 is familiar with unemployment compensation and labor department  
4 issues;

5 (4) the secretary of finance and  
6 administration or the secretary's designee;

7 (5) the chairpersons of the house  
8 appropriations and finance committee, the senate finance  
9 committee, the senate corporations and transportation committee  
10 and the house government and urban affairs committee or their  
11 designees;

12 (6) a public member, appointed by the speaker  
13 of the house of representatives, who is an economist with an  
14 advocacy group for the unemployed;

15 (7) a minority party member of the house of  
16 representatives, appointed by the speaker of the house of  
17 representatives;

18 (8) a minority party member of the senate,  
19 appointed by the president pro tempore of the senate;

20 (9) two public members, one to represent labor  
21 interests and one to represent business interests, and both of  
22 whom have expertise in unemployment insurance, appointed by the  
23 speaker of the house of representatives; and

24 (10) two public members, one to represent  
25 labor interests and one to represent business interests, and

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1 both of whom have expertise in unemployment insurance,  
2 appointed by the president pro tempore of the senate.

3 B. The chair of the unemployment insurance task  
4 force shall be elected by the task force. The task force shall  
5 meet at the call of the chair.

6 C. Members of the task force shall serve from the  
7 time of their appointment through December 31, 2005. On  
8 January 1, 2006, the task force is terminated.

9 D. The public members of the task force shall  
10 receive per diem and mileage pursuant to the Per Diem and  
11 Mileage Act.

12 E. The task force shall:

13 (1) examine the existing program of  
14 unemployment insurance in New Mexico, including:

- 15 (a) the requirements of federal law;  
16 (b) the adequacy of the contribution  
17 levels for employers;  
18 (c) the reasonableness of the statutory  
19 structure for adjusting contribution levels;  
20 (d) the adequacy of existing benefits  
21 and alternatives to expand and improve upon those benefits; and  
22 (e) the actuarial soundness of the  
23 unemployment compensation fund and alternatives for reimbursing  
24 or crediting excess amounts to employers; and

25 (2) no later than December 31, 2005, report

1 its findings and recommendations to the second session of the  
2 forty-seventh legislature.

3 F. The legislative council service, with assistance  
4 from the labor department and the legislative finance  
5 committee, shall provide staff for the task force.

6 Section 2. EMERGENCY.--It is necessary for the public  
7 peace, health and safety that this act take effect immediately.

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